

Application No.: 10/661,997

Amendment dated: August 9, 2006

Reply to Office Action of: February 10, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A specimen collector comprising a hollow elongated tubular housing without any elongated member inside and with a sealed end without any air outlet and an open end with an opening means provided near said sealed end wherein the specimen collector may be used to collect liquid specimen and subsequently release the specimen by allowing air to enter the hollow elongated tubular housing through said opening means.

Claim 2 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 1, wherein the opening means is a score line.

Claim 3 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 1, wherein the opening means is a snap-on cap.

Claim 4 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 1, wherein the opening means is a screw-on cap.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A specimen collector comprising a hollow elongated tubular housing without any elongated member inside and with a sealed end without any air outlet and an open end with an opening means provided near said sealed end and a viscous fluid provided near said open end to seal said open end wherein the specimen collector may be used to collect liquid specimen and wherein said viscous fluid will seal the collected liquid specimen in the

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hollow elongated tubular housing and subsequently release the specimen by allowing air to enter the hollow elongated tubular housing through said opening means.

Claim 6 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 5, wherein the opening means is a score line.

Claim 7 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 5, wherein the opening means is a snap-on cap.

Claim 8 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 5, wherein the opening means is a screw-on cap.

Claim 9 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 5, wherein the viscous fluid is silicone.

Claim 10 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 6, wherein the viscous fluid is silicone.

Claim 11 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 7, wherein the viscous fluid is silicone.

Claim 12 (original): A specimen collector as in claim 8, wherein the viscous fluid is silicone.